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Representative Pat Bauer

Will you be able to vote?

Due to new state laws, you will be required to have a valid Indiana state picture ID to vote. Please visit my website, www.in.gov/H6, to learn more about this law and how to obtain an identification card and rules concerning absentee voting.



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Working for You



Bauer Votes NO on Selling Toll Road



Helping Hoosier Families



Indiana tightens child protection

Improving safety for Indiana children

SEX OFFENDERS

A series of bills continue our state's efforts to crack down on sex offenders. The bills clarify the designation of "sexually violent predator," require sex offenders to wear GPS tracking devices, establish lifetime parole for these offenders, ban sex offenders' access to locations where children may be present, keep better track of sex offenders' whereabouts with the new DOC sex offender registry, and make the crime of human trafficking of a minor a felony.

DRUG ABUSE AND CHILDREN

At least two pieces of legislation this session attempt to regulate controlled substances abuse through study and harsher penalties for crimes related to drug abuse. One increases the penalties for neglect of a child if the neglect is a result of drug abuse or production, while another authorizes the study of the effects of substance abuse or alcohol use during pregnancy.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Persons guilty of domestic battery now face harsher penalties. New legislation makes domestic battery, including strangulation, a Class D felony if it is knowingly committed in the presence of a child under the age of 16 or if the offender has committed a previous substantially-related crime in Indiana.

Major Moves Bauer votes **NO** on selling Toll Road

More than anything else, the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly will be remembered for Major Moves, the governor's program to sell the Indiana Toll Road to a foreign group for the next 75 years.

This proposal became law, despite public opposition at a level I have never seen before. In large numbers, the people of Indiana said they did not want a public asset built with their tax dollars handed over to a foreign corporation, which then will pocket all profits generated by the toll road for 75 years. I heard you and voted **AGAINST** the plan, but our concerns were not enough to change the minds of the majorities in control of the Indiana House and Senate.

Now that Major Moves has become law, what will happen in Indiana?

From now until 2081, when you travel the Indiana Toll Road, your tolls will be sent overseas.

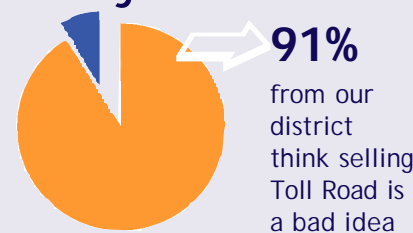
The governor says Indiana will begin work on around 200 road and bridge projects with the proceeds received from the foreign investors. I believe the sale doesn't provide enough funding to pay for all of the Major Moves projects promised by the governor.

An extension of Interstate 69 from Evansville to Indianapolis will be built, but the completion of that project will be delayed because Marion County lawmakers demanded a new location at the northern end of the extension. No one can say when construction on the I-69 extension will be completed.

When that extension is built, it will be a toll road, likely owned and operated by a foreign company. Thanks to the demands of some Republican Marion County legislators, the I-69 extension will be a toll road from Evansville to Martinsville, but not from Martinsville to Indianapolis.

The implications of Major Moves will be felt in Indiana for years to come. If anything, more time was needed to fully analyze the impact of Major Moves. I fear we will be finding out more and more disturbing details about it as time goes on.

Hoosiers Voice Opposition to Major Moves



Source: 2006 Legislative survey results.

FOR SALE



Indiana tightens eminent domain law

Improving protection for homeowners

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local governments can use the process of eminent domain to take private property, such as homes and businesses, in order to hand it over to a private developer.

Indiana lawmakers immediately began working on a plan to protect the property rights of Hoosiers. Months of bipartisan work has resulted in legislation that tightens Indiana's eminent domain laws and restricts the ability of most government units to seize private property and transfer it to private entities for development.

The new legislation sets strict standards for property acquisition through eminent domain, and limits its use to only truly blighted and decaying properties. This will prevent a developer from being able to have a local government use eminent domain to seize your property simply because they think it might be a good spot for a new strip mall.

It received unanimous support, but there are still

potential problems that need to be addressed. Most troublesome is the fact that the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is exempt from complying with the new restrictions.

There are concerns that INDOT will use this exemption to seize property for some of the road privatization projects proposed by the governor, such as the Interstate 69 extension or other unannounced projects in other areas of the state.



Rep. Bauer debates legislation on the House floor.

A summary of new legislation

FUNERAL PROTESTS



New legislation increases the penalty for disorderly conduct occurring near the location of a funeral, memorial service, or viewing. The bill is largely in response to a group from Kansas that has chosen to stage protests at the funerals of Hoosier soldiers killed in action, using the occasion to make a political statement.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



New legislation establishes emergency management mobile support teams and legalizes the extension of full-time state employee protections to the members of these volunteer medical teams for the duration of their service. Establishing these mobile support teams and then honoring them for their service are two ways to take steps forward in improving Indiana's approach to disaster relief.

MILITARY RELIEF FUND

We established the military relief fund to provide grants for Hoosiers whose family members have been called into duty since September 11, 2001. A portion of the money for the fund will be raised through the sale of a new Hoosier veteran license plate created through the bill.

SCHOOL SAFETY



We have attempted to ensure the safety of schoolchildren and to protect school employees by making possession of a knife on school property or a school bus a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by up to a 180-day prison term or a fine of \$1,000.

HOME IMPROVEMENT FRAUD

The circumstances under which home improvement fraud can now be prosecuted have been expanded. The bill increases the penalties for home improvement fraud if the improvements were made on the property of a senior citizen or if more than two clauses of home improvement law were violated.